

Weston Longville Parish Council.

Meeting of the Parish Council – Minutes

**Monday February 10th, 2025 at 7.30pm
Hall for All, Church Street, Weston Longville**

Parish Councillors present: Clare Morton

CM (Chair)

Peter Ross

PR (Vice Chairman)

Paul Cowley

PC

Justin Cohu

JC (left at 21:00)

Ruth Horton

RH (arrived during item 5, left at 21:00)

Dawn Clarke

DC (Clerk)

16 Members of the public, including District Councillor Peter Bulman (PB) and County Councillor Greg Peck (GP)

2025/0001 Chair's welcome and to receive apologies for absence.

Councillors Bob Banks and Rick Parsons sent apologies.

2025/0002 To receive declarations of interest in items on the agenda and consider any requests for dispensations.

All Councillors have an interest in the A47 dualling, NWL and all electrical cable works.

2025/0003 To approve the minutes of the meeting held on November 11th, 2024.

It was resolved that the minutes were a true record of the meeting held on November 11th 2024 and signed by the Chair

2025/0004 To report on items not on the agenda from the last meeting.

Councillor Peter Ross made a report following the last 7 Chairs meeting. The group discussed mutually interesting items: the withdraw of the Western Link

application, the work on the A47, the impact of the diversions and rat running when roadworks are in place, The lack of 'No diversion route' on unsuitable roads, and clear information of traffic diversions.

A joint letter from the 7 Chairs was sent to Jerome Mayhew MP to express concerns about the withdrawal from the NWL planning application and road works.

Volunteering, the impact of the cabling network, accessing and enabling access to residents to charitable funds were discussed.

2025/0005 Open forum for Public Participation: an opportunity to hear from members of the public and County and District Councillors.

District Councillor Peter Bulman noted continued problems with building practices at Johnsons Garage in Lenwade/Gt Witchingham. The impact to some residents and their homes is significant. Work has been halted.

There is support being given to a resident for an application for grant funding and another with planning enforcement.

Support is being given to a resident with respect to building enforcement and there is frustration with the speed and effectiveness of any support or action. It was decided to add 'Planning Enforcement' to the 7 Chairs agenda.

County Councillor Greg Peck noted that Norfolk was accepted into the first group of counties moving towards devolution and a mayoral system. Elections have been delayed a year to enable stability during the process of application. Proposals for a devolved structure are to be submitted by March. There will be public consultation.

There is an additional White paper for local government reform.

The withdrawal of the NWL planning application allows Norfolk County Council to open a dialogue with Natural England and other agencies to resolve the bat issue. Whilst there was a planning permission being sought this was not an option.

There has been a shift in central government policy, and it is hoped that this will ease the restrictions that have previously been a barrier to permission being granted. Any road will be significantly delayed.

Post Office Lane, it is noted that the debris is not blocking the footpath. The site is large and the owner intends to clear the site – it is not within the scope of the Parish Council. It is noted there is no unlawful activity. CM to speak again to the Footpath officer.

A resident asked about noise from the adjacent field (Dark Lane) with respect

to it being used for motorbikes. The resident was advised to submit a online complaint via Environmental Health (EH). They were encouraged to submit a complaint at the time the noise was happening and not to submit retrospectively.

The EH department have new equipment as well as an app that can be used. Anyone affected was encouraged to submit separate reports.

The new owner of 'Spencer's Corner' introduced himself, he has also purchased an adjacent field. He is communicating with Planning Enforcement in respect to the outstanding issues that were has inherited. The new owner has the original container on site still and intends to keep livestock on the land. There is ditch maintenance that needs to be completed which is being addressed. He was thanked for coming to the meeting and in the interest of safety asked to regularise the road access to the plot with Highways.

A resident from Weston Hall Road (B1535) and asked if there was any plan for mitigations for those residents. CM to meet with the resident.

2025/0006 Planning (Portfolio CM) Verbal update

a. By delegation:

2023/2444 Roarr Dinosaur Adventure Weston Hall Road Weston Longville NR9 5JE
Erection of two externally illuminated freestanding signs and two metal framed banners at the main site entrance

b. For consideration:

2025/0222 Sunset Barn Morton Lane Weston Longville NR9 5JL
Garden office.

2024/1869 Roarr Dinosaur Adventure Weston Hall Road Weston Longville NR9 5JE
Retention of two mechanical rides, tarmac hardstanding and low boundary wall.

c. Any application received after the publishing of this agenda.

a. 2023/2444 A response was submitted agreeing with the lighting scheme but asking for the operation to be aligned with the opening hours.

b. 2025/0222 It was resolved to request obscuring glass for any windows that overlook the neighbours' garden.

2024/1869 It was resolved to resubmit the request for noise mitigation fencing that had previously been submitted.

The bat report by Norfolk Wildlife Trust shows the details of all the roosts on the site. The application of Regulation 43 with this application will be monitored - in particular the 'disturb' aspect.

c. 2024/3067 Application for 3 Self Build houses – Previously the Parish Council has asked for the deferral of the closing date whilst waiting for the self build

consultation.

It was advised that applications are not addressed in the order they are received.

This site had previously been proposed as part of the GNP but was not included in the plan. This is outline planning permission and a response considering pedestrian safety will be made. There is a parish wide self-build allocation of 3 units until 2038.

It was noted that Pump Farm was not yet commissioned as it was waiting Ofsted permission.

Councillor Clare Morton will draft a response to the Self Build Consultation. It was agreed that the paper was vague and gave no solid definitions or rules regarding settlement with or without boundary.

2025/0007 Roads (Portfolio RH) Verbal update

To receive an update and agree next steps on A47 and Norwich Western Link.

- a. To receive an update from the Norwich Western Link Liaison Meeting.
- b. To discuss the NCC mitigation proposals.
- c. To agree a response to the PJA127-ID-002 and PJA143-ID-005 TROs with respect to lowering the speed limit across the parish.

a.& b. The mitigations that have been proposed are being modelled. The Parish Council is waiting for the response to bring this to public consultation. Council discussed the idea of 'temporary' and recognised that it needs definition so that timescales are known to ask for a review of the measures and that further request can be made.

The mitigations are expected to be more permanent than temporary, and the time gap between the A47 closure and the possibility of the NWL at some time in the future. The need for more extensive and aggressive measures was discussed.

The recent road closures for work on the A47 highlighted the fragility of the road network and brought the village into gridlock and the damage to the verges and passing places is significant. PC called for a harder line with the mitigations and to push for road closures in addition to the mitigations. Looking ahead there was concern that should there be a closure on the A47 the local roads through the parish will become the default route. The upgrading of the (HGV route) Weston Hall Road was discussed as a solution to make the Village route less palatable to through traffic.

The potential to upgrade the junction of Weston Hall Road and the Fakenham

Road was discussed, this has previously been rejected by NCC

The upcoming reduction in speed will make the village less attractive to passing traffic.

At the Liaison Group meeting National Highways said that they were obliged to put in a diversion route as far away from the area as possible, however it was only legal to close side roads that are impacted by their roadworks, all other roads are part of National Highways and people are entitled to drive on them, there is no way to force people to take a route.

A resident suggested upgrading the HGV route, widening the road to make it more suitable for the vehicles using it and installing a roundabout or crossroads in Lenwade as a safe alternative route.

A resident asked about timescales and the gap between the Dualling and NWL potentially being started and asked about the mitigations.

A resident noted that the road works will last years and there are plans for additional businesses which will attract traffic and asked that pressure be exerted that takes into account the developments that will have a significant impact on the village.

RH explained the timetable that has been set for the implementation of the mitigation measures. These are separate from the speed reduction measures across the village.

At the moment the mitigation consultation is scheduled for Autumn 2025. It must be noted in the example of Attlebridge - that if there is no consensus there may be no mitigations installed.

A resident asked about the junctions for the NWL off the A47, it was confirmed that the exit/entry will be built as a bell mouth but then left for connection.

Councillor Peter Ross asked if the large housing developments were being considered in different way now that the NWL planning was withdrawn. PB noted that lack of infrastructure in place prior to building commencing was a frustration that was shared by other District Councillors. PB wasn't aware that appropriate infrastructure was a consideration that was made by planners. That application were considered in respect to the current actual situation.

c. The response for the reduction in parish wide speed reductions was agreed and CM will submit.

The speed reductions are not linked to the mitigation, however this is moving very quickly.

There is a 'phase 2' lowering of the speed limit at the end of Rectory Road.

Peter Ross asked for this to be added to the comments being submitted. It was discussed and there is not zoning in place to support this extension at the current time.

Dark Lane was proposed in the TRO to have a 20mph speed limit. However it is currently not a highway. CM to double check.

2025/0008 Parish Infrastructure (Portfolio BB) Verbal update

- a. Registration of Allotments – response from Land Registry and next steps.
- b. To discuss the Saturday Sports Club funding.

- a. After a year Land Registry has requested further documents. CM has attained an extension in time to address the questions - RH and CM to look at the request and the Clerk to contact a sector specific solicitor should we need one to progress the application.
- b. The provision of a sports session that was low cost and safe (on the field) was discussed, there was concern about the amount of administration work this would be for the clerk. Ensuring DBS checking for the provider was not straight forward. There are around 30 children in the area which would benefit.

It was agreed to support a sports provision for children/teens in principle, the details and practicalities to be presented. There is no grant proposal submitted yet, and there may be a need to request a grant from the Wind Turbine Fund.

2025/0009 Environmental Considerations (Portfolio PC) - Verbal update

- a. To consider a grant to the Tree Network
- b. To consider a litter pick of Honingham Rd during half marathon closure.
- c. To distribute clover to councillors / parishioners.
- d. To receive any update on the Hornsea 3 and Equinor SEP and DEP.

- a. The last donation to the Tree Network was in June 2023.
They provide training that PC has attended without charge, the donations go towards their insurance.
It was resolved to donate £50 to the network.

- b. 2025/0013
- c. 2025/0013
- d. 2025/0013

2025/0010 Parishioner Engagement (Portfolio RP) - Verbal update
Update on the booklet of Walks / Footpath Map.

2025/0013

2025/0011 Administrative Matters - Clerk's Report (Verbal Update)

- a. Correspondence from NALC and to resolve a vote on the new structure.
- b. To review the Asset List, Risk Management and Policy Documents submitted to council.

a. It was resolved to accept NALC being a business and no longer a CO-OP

b. It was agreed to re-state the value of the allotment to £1,000 and include the bus shelter, remove one of the cut out police men as it was lost.

The financial regulations were amended with the new banking arrangement.

The risk register was updated and included the new banking, the standing orders were re-adopted with no amendments.

It was resolved to accept the Financial Regulations.

It was resolved to accept the Risk Register.

It was resolved to accept the standing orders

2025/0012 Finance (Clerk)

- a. To agree the payment list and to note any income and payments made since the last meeting.
- b. To note the CIL and Solar Balance and structure of the bank accounts.
- c. To note and sign the bank balances and reconciliation presented.
- d. To receive the Q3 Budget against Actual.
- e. To note the precept and the Band D rate.

a. It was resolved to accept the payment list.

February 2025 Meeting

Income

Unity Trust Bank	Quarterly Interest - December	22.22
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To note the payment

Unity Trust Bank	Monthly Charge - December	0.60
Unity Trust Bank	Monthly Charge - January	6.00
Dawn Clarke	Clerk Salary - December with back pay	357.41
Norfolk Print Solutions	Foot Path Map	99.00
Norfolk Print Solutions	Rick test prints footpath map	15.00

For Authorisation

Dawn Clarke	Expenses / WFH Allowance / Mileage	87.45
Dawn Clarke	Salary January	270.05
Dawn Clarke	Salary February	270.05
Westcotec	Battery (shared unit)	100.80
Westcotec	2 x Battery and inspection	255.60
Hall For All	Yearly rental	180.00
NPTS	Training RP	70.00
Dawn Clarke	Postage - full year	8.70

b. The Solar and CIL ring fenced monies are in the interest account.

Total balance	£ 34,026.53
Cil	£ 4766.42
Solar	£14,177.98
General and reserves	£15,082.13

c. The documents were signed.

d. Budget against actual submitted, some lines are very over budget (Grants)
 As more grants have been given than budgeted. However other lines are below budget. This was partly due to (additional) grant requests that were held over to this year.
 It was noted that the global situation was under budget.

The audit will be over the £25k limit has been passed so will need greater audit.

e. The precept was submitted at £11,570 and this gives a band D rate of £73.69
 The tax base has increased to 157 this is an increase in of 7.

The 2024/25 rate was £71.00, and increase of £2.69 under 4%

2025/0013 Any other business (for information only) and items for the next agenda.

There is a half marathon from Western Park on February 23rd, this will cause multiple road closures. Clerk to put this on Facebook.

There will be a litter pick and residents were encouraged to help on that morning to take advantage of the road closures.

PC is happy to collect bagged waste left along the road after the event.

Clover will be sown at that time.

Hornsea will be contacting all residents regarding the next stage of work pulling the cables through.

Equinor have been surveying the area.

Pump Farm path, the farmer has had problems with motorised vehicles on his land. It is difficult to pass but is on his boundary. CM to compose a letter.

Footpath walks – this was distributed in the area with the Wensum Diaries.

The SAM 2 has been serviced.

There is a new joint SAM battery for the shared machine. This cost has been shared between the parishes.

Clerk to go on the NPTS Spring Seminar – cost to be shared with her other councils.

APM prior to the next meeting.

Meeting closed at 21.46

To confirm the date and venue of the next meeting:

Monday May 12th, 2025 at 19:30 in the Hall for All – with the Annual Meeting of the Parish preceding the meeting.

Signed:

Date: